

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 20-25 have been amended. No new matter has been submitted, and reconsideration of the allowability of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-7 and 17-18 have been allowed.

Claims 1-25 are pending and under consideration.

ENTRY OF AFTER FINAL AMENDMENT

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, claims 20-25 have been amended to recite "computer readable medium," though applicants respectfully submitted that the previous recitation of "medium" encompassed the same.

The Office Action previously indicated that claims 20-25 improperly set forth computer readable claims, and applicants subsequently attempted to remedy the impropriety by amending the claims to include a medium. Herein, applicants have further amended the claims to set forth a computer readable medium. Noting that each amendment was anticipated by the Examiner as required by the previous rejection. Accordingly, no additional search or review is required, and no new issues have been raised.

In addition, it is noted that the Office Action has taken an interpretation that the claimed medium could be a piece of paper with software code written thereon. However, this interpretation would appear to be in conflict with the present disclosure, which describes the claimed program as capable of implementing embodiments of the present invention. Thus a piece of paper with software written thereon would not conform with the detailed description of the present application.

Regardless, as the outstanding rejections should have been anticipated by the Examiner, and as no new issues are raised by the same, entry and consideration of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 5, 8-13, 15-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Buzsaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,334,193. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Again, the Office Action has indicated that Buzsaki discloses all the claimed features of independent claims 1, 13 and 20. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is again respectfully submitted that Buzsaki at least fails to disclose the claimed process flow being modifiable.

As noted previously, the Office Action has indicated that Buzsaki discloses the claimed process flow.

However, Buzsaki does not discuss the claimed process flow.

Rather, the Office Action would appear to be interpreting the different policies/processes/or user defined activities of Buzsaki as being the same as the claimed process flow. They are not the same.

The present application details that management actions and management policies are not the same as the claimed process flow, rather for each management action and management policy there are particular predefined underlying processes, e.g., even the mere logging of errors conventionally includes several required underlying processes.

See the present application in paragraph [0025]: "Not only are the particular management actions to be performed by the management policy configurable by the user, but the process flow in performing such management actions is also configurable by the user."

Also, see paragraph [0048] explaining the management of conventional management policies: "Policy builder program 126 provides an interface with which a user may interact to create management policies 125. However, such creation of management policies 125 is generally limited in traditional MSs in that the process flow of policies is fixed, rather than being user-defined."

See paragraphs [0049]- [0050] setting forth: "Examples of such management behavior that may be defined includes management behavior to be used responsive to particular trap messages, as well as management behavior for polling network elements... Thereafter, a user may modify the management behavior at the central MS 102 (e.g., by modifying management policies 125 via policy builder program 126), and such modification may be automatically communicated to the appropriate gateways."

In addition, see paragraph [0058]: "Each of policies 302 and 304 make certain

management tasks available for implementation by a user. For instance, in the example of Fig. 3, policies 302 and 304 each make such management tasks as alert generation, event logging event correlation, alert escalation, and thresholding available for implementation by a user.

Policies 302 and 304 **execute according to a fixed, inflexible process flow, which may not be modified by a user...** Thus, each time policy 302 or 304 is invoked (e.g., responsive to a particular message being received from network element 307 that causes invocation of such policy), their respective process flow is executed."

Lastly, paragraphs [0059] and [0060] provide the example of a policy that only includes event logging, where a predefined "process flow" is required.

Thus, the claimed process flow is not the same as the separate management tasks discussed in Buzsaki.

The Office Action relies on an example of merely logging errors, indicating that Buzsaki discloses the availability of modifying process definitions to permit the reorganization of different management tasks. The Office Action sets forth that because the present application provides an example of only having a logging operation, then the user definable modifications in Buzsaki are the same as the claimed modifiable process flow.

Again, Buzsaki only discloses a macro level of user modification, i.e., permitting a user to pick and choose different management tasks, sequences, and responses. This is not the same as the claimed modification of the process flow, i.e., the claimed modification of a process flow is a level below the modification of management tasks by permitting the process flow of each management task to be modified.

Conversely, the presently claimed invention details that the process flow is modifiable, i.e., not fixed and user modifiable. See FIG. 4 of the present application, which illustrates multiple policies with different process flows.

Again, it is respectfully submitted that when the term "process flow" is read in light of the specification, the Office Action's outstanding interpretation of "process flow" is not appropriate or reasonable. Buzsaki does not disclose or suggest modifying process flows, but only discloses modifying separate management tasks (again, with separate management tasks including a process flow).

In addition, even if an end modified result of a management task of Buzsaki were to have the same resultant process flow as a modified management task of the presently claimed invention, Buzsaki still fails to disclose or suggest the underlying modification of the process flow

for the corresponding management task.

Thus, it is accordingly submitted that Buzsaki fails to disclose at least the claimed modifiable process flow. In view of this proper interpretation of this term, it is respectfully submitted that Buzsaki similarly fails to disclose the remaining features of the independent claims.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of claims 1, 5, 8-13, 15-16 and 19 be withdrawn and claims 1, 5, 8-13, 15-16 and 19 be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 2-4, 14, and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Buzsaki, in view of Winokur et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,483,637. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Winokur et al. fails to disclose or suggest the aforementioned modifiable process flow. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that a modified Buzsaki, in view of Winokur et al., similarly would fail to disclose at least the claimed modifiable process flow. Accordingly, in view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 14, and 20-23 are patentably distinct from Buzsaki and Winokur et al., alone or in combination.

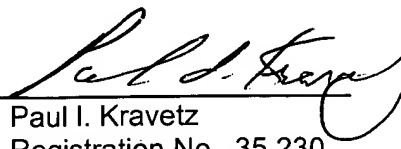
Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of claims 2-4, 14, and 20-23 be withdrawn and claims 2-4, 14, and 20-23 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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